

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 SS-15 DODE-00 FEA-01 NSC-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, AORG

SUBJECT: UNCTAD IV - INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

REF: GENEVA 2347

1. AT GROUP B "GROUPE DE REFLEXION" MEETING HELD U.S. MISSION  
APRIL 21, THE QUESTION OF THE POSITION OF GROUP B AT NAIROBI  
ON INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WAS DISCUSSED. THERE WAS NO SENTIMENT  
FOR AGREEING TO ANY EXPANSION OF THE MANDATE PRESENTLY GIVEN  
TO UNCTAD UNDER UNGA RESOLUTION 1995 OR SUPPORT FOR CONVERSION  
OF UNCTAD INTO THE CENTRAL NEGOTIATING BODY OF UN SYSTEM.  
IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE "EFFICIENCY OF UNCTAD" WITHIN  
ITS PRESENT MANDATE SHOULD BE THE OSTENSIBLE OBJECTIVE TO BE  
PURSUED BY GROUP B AT NAIROBI, IT BEING SOMEWHAT CYNICALLY RECOGNIZED  
THAT AN EFFECTIVE UNCTAD WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE  
IN GROUP B'S INTEREST AND PROBABPO UNACHIEVABLE IN ANY CASE  
GIVEN THE COMPETITIVE VESTED INTERESTS OF THE DIFFERENT  
SECRETARIAT DIVISIONS AND OF THE G-77 ELEMENTS. IT WAS  
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FELT THAT GROUP B SHOULD ENGAGE IN A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE

FUNCTIONING OF UNCTAD EARLY AT NAIROBI JCD ATTEMPT TO PASS ON SUCH CN CISM TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL INFORMALLY. INITIAL CRITICISMSZN LRESSBJ AT THE "GDJPE DE REFLEXION" CENTERED ON (A) THE FAILURE OF UNCTAD TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES; (B) ITS INABILITY TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF ITEMS ON AGENDAS; (C) THE CONTINUED PRLIFERATION OF COMMITTEES WITH TOO SHORT SESSIONS, MEETING TOO INFREQUENTLY WITH VAST AGENDAS AND NO CENTER OF FOCUS; (D) THE FAILURE OF THE SYG TO MAKE USE OF HIS ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS TO BRING ABOUT EFFECTIVE INTERNAL CHANGES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT, AND (E) THE FAILURE OF THE TDB TO ASSUME A "STEERING COMMITTEE ROLE" VIS-A-VIS THE COMMITTEES, THUS COMMITTEES TENDED TO CONTINUOUSLY EXPAND THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST AND AGENDAS.

2. IN VIEW OF THE APPARENT INABILITY OF EITHER THE SYG OR THE G-77 TO PUT FORWARD SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON THE ITEM, THE GROUPE DE REFLEXION THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE TACTICALLY USEFUL FOR GROUP B TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF "BEING POSITIVE" ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ISSUE EARLY AT NAROB I BY TABLING AN INNOCUOUS RESOLUTION OF ITS OWN. THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS WERE SUPPOSED FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION; (A) GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE IN BROAD TERMS; (B) UNCTAD IV SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO CONSIDERING ITERIM MEASURES TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS; (C) UNCTAD SHOULD "STAND READY" TO UNDERTAKE ANY NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRED RESULTING FROM NAIROBI ON AN AD HOC BASIS WITHIN ITS PRESENT SPHERE OF COMPETENCE; (D) THE SYG SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE FULL USE OF HIS ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS TO REFORM THE SECRETARIAT; (E) AUTOMATIC SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEES SHOULD BE STOPPED, WITH COMMITTEES FREE TO RESPOND TO AD HOC TASKS IDENTIFIED FOR THEM BY THE TDB; (F) THE STEERING COMMITTEE ROLE OF THE TDB SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY HAVING THE TDB EXERCISE CONTROL OVER AGENDAS (I.E., BY LIMITING THEM TO A FEW ITEMS), BY ESTABLISHING PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONCENTRATION AND BY DEVELOPING A WORK PROGRAM FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND (G) INCORPORATING AS MANY OF THE G-77 SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AS POSSIBLE.

3. CONCERNING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OF G-77 MANILA PROGRAM OF ACTION, "GROUPE DE REFLEXION" GENERALLY THOUGHT THERE WAS MERIT PROPOSING THAT THE TDB BE PLACED ON AN OPEN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENDED BASIS, RATHER THAN EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP TO TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF UNCTAD, THUS AVOIDING THE PRECEDENT FOR OTHER BODIES AND NOT PROVIDING AN INCENTIVE FOR PARTICIPATION BY STATES THAT FEEL THEY MUST MERELY BECAUSE THEY ARE MEMBERS. THE G-77 PROPOSAL FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPRESENTATION OF TDB EVERY TWO YEARS WAS GREETED WITH SCEPTICISM THAT MINISTER WOULD ATTEND UNLESS THERE WAS GREATER CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT ON LIMITED AGENDA TOPICS. CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT

OF COMMITTEE ON LDC COOPERATION, IT WAS FELT THAT WHILE THERE WAS MERIT IN SUCH A COMMITTEE, IT SHOULD NOT BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER COMMITTEES, I.E., THE COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET AT THE CALL OF THE TDB WHEN TASKS FOR IT ARE IDENTIFIED RATHER THAN ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE AS PROPOSED FOR ALL COMMITTEES IN PARA 2 (E) ABOVE.

4. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE "GROUP DE REFLEXION" SHOULD AGAIN MEET EARLY AT NAIROBI TO DRAFT THE LANGUAGE FOR ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY GROUP AS A WHOLE. DALE

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